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Foundations of College Writing

Literature Review

Monster

While reading *Monster* by Walter Dean MyersI felt a variety of different emotions. The story kept me very intrigued, but also curious about my own morals and beliefs. Although, I do believe Steve wrong I did not feel he deserved to be on trial for murder. After reading the story and having discussions with my peers, I believe being on trial was a decent experience for Steve. Being involved in this crime has taught Steve valuable lessons, and gave him some direction into constructing who he wants to become.

Throughout the book Steve was trying to figure out who he was. He had a prosecutor who saw him as a monster. She knew very little about him besides the fact that he was involved in the crime. Just with that little bit of insight she was able to not only identify him as a monster but to make him feel he was a monster as well. His public defender, O’Brien, was just doing her job. When Steve asked O’Brien did she believe they were going to when she replied with what does he mean by win. O’Brien seems to have little faith in Steve each time he asks about the trail. She lets him know that he young, black, and on trial so the jury doesn’t need to know much about him. Even after Steve beat his case O’Brien just walked away without saying a thing. She acted as if Steve didn’t mean anything to her; she was just doing her job. Steve is also concerned with how his parents see him. For the first time Steve sees his father cry, he wonders if his father now sees him as a monster. Throughout Steve’s whole experience on trial he is concerned about how others see him. He even says at one point he feels like he’s not involved in the case he just sits there and watches.

I believe Steve desired to turn his story into a movie to help shape his character. He wanted the world to know his story and learn who is really is. If more people can see Steve in a better light then I believe he would see himself in a better light. Being a part of this case was like motivation for Steve to do something with his life. This was a lesson learn a jump start into making the man he wants to be.

Comparison

My biggest difference in this paper and my last is I have a thesis statement. In my last paper I just evaluated my interview and wrote about. In this paper I kind of addressed more of my main point before I got into my evaluation. I gave more of a proper introduction instead of just writing. After getting back my first paper I learned the importance of thesis. It makes the paper flow better and gives the audience your purpose right away. I don’t believe there were any other big differences in the paper. Although I do hope this paper is more suitable than the first one.